

105TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 3444

To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide that in the case of past-due benefits awarded an individual pursuant to a proceeding before the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, any payment of attorneys fees allowed with respect to such award shall be paid directly to the attorney by the Secretary.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 12, 1998

Mr. EVANS (for himself, Mr. KENNEDY of Massachusetts, Mr. FILNER, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. MASCARA, Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota, Ms. CARSON, Mr. REYES, and Mr. RODRIGUEZ) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide that in the case of past-due benefits awarded an individual pursuant to a proceeding before the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, any payment of attorneys fees allowed with respect to such award shall be paid directly to the attorney by the Secretary.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. DIRECT PAYMENT OF ATTORNEYS FEES BY THE**
2 **SECRETARY IN PAST-DUE BENEFIT AWARDS.**

3 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 5904(d)(3) of title 38,
4 United States Code, is amended in the first sentence by
5 striking “may direct” and inserting “shall direct”.

6 (b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendment made by
7 subsection (a) shall apply with respect to past-due benefits
8 awarded under title 38, United States Code, on or after
9 the date of the enactment of this Act.

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